

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2416 without my signature.

This bill is inconsistent with the State Board of Education's policy to ensure that classroom curriculum is rigorous, standards-aligned and research-based. Authorizing local districts to determine which supplemental instruction materials are scientifically based and standards-aligned does not necessarily provide that assurance. Furthermore, this bill could jeopardize the more than \$144 million in Reading First program funding that is provided to the State, if the supplemental instructional materials chosen by local educational agencies were found not to be based on scientifically based reading research. The United States Department of Education's policy guidance for Reading First programs requires that the state educational agency, California's State Board of Education, be responsible for ensuring that only programs based on scientifically based research can be funded through the Reading First program.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this measure.

Sincerely,